# CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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FINAL RECORD OF THE SIX HUNDRED AND NINTH PLENARY MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Thursday, 30 January 1992, at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. Naste Calovski (Yugoslavia)

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The PRESIDENT: I declare open the 609th plenary meeting of the Conference on Disarmament.

I have learnt that Ambassador Maj Britt Theorin, of Sweden, who had become the Dean of the representatives to the Conference, has now left her position as Leader of the Delegation of Sweden to this body. Ambassador Theorin served in that capacity since 27 January 1983 and chaired the Conference in June 1984. I should also mention that she chaired the Group of Experts appointed by the Secretary-General on a Comprehensive Study on Nuclear Weapons and participated actively in other important disarmament meetings. Her contributions to our work are well known and I hope that she will, in one form or another, continue to be associated with disarmament, where her competence, knowledge and personal qualities will always be welcome. I wish to ask the representative of Sweden to transmit to Ambassador Theorin our best wishes for her future career.

There is only one speaker on my list today, the representative of the Russian Federation, Ambassador Batsanov, to whom I now give the floor.

Mr. BATSANOV (Russian Federation) (translated from Russian): Thank you, Mr. President. Last time I expressed some views regarding the fact that our meetings are taking place largely without statements, so I myself have attempted to improve the situation somewhat.

In the course of my previous remarks, Mr. President, I already congratulated you on assuming your present post and I am certain that your high professional qualities as a diplomat will further the success of our work here. Allow me also to express the gratitude of my delegation to your predecessor, the Ambassador of Venezuela, Horacio Arteaga for the contribution he made to the work of the Conference on Disarmament when he was President.

I should also like to welcome the new Ambassador of Belgium, Mr. Michel Servais, and to assure him that our delegation is prepared to cooperate most productively with him. Mr. Ambassador, I also request you to convey the warmest words of gratitude and best wishes to your predecessor and my friend, Ambassador Houllez. I should also like to wish all the best to Ambassador Maj Britt Theorin, who has left the post of head of the delegation of Sweden to the Conference on Disarmament, and I ask the Swedish delegation also to convey these words to her.

Mr. President, today our delegation has taken the floor to inform the members of the Conference of a number of important decisions adopted lately by the Russian Government in the field of arms limitation and reduction. These decisions are set out in the statement by the President of Russia, Boris Yeltsin, of 29 January 1992. They have been prepared jointly with other States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States. I am sure that they are of direct interest to our forum particularly, as lately, and especially in the last month or so, the international community has been asking quite a number of serious questions about the fate of the vast military potential remaining from the USSR.

(Mr. Batsanov, Russian Federation)

I am not going to deal with the entire statement, which will be issued as an official document of the Conference, I shall refer here to the main issues.

The statement expresses the Russian Federation's position of principle in favour of the elimination of nuclear and other means of mass destruction throughout the world and reaffirms all obligations under bilateral and multilateral arrangements in the field of arms limitation and disarmament signed by the Soviet Union and now in force, as well as the main principle in the building of armed forces, which will be the principle of reasonable minimum sufficiency of nuclear and conventional weapons.

In particular, Russia will pursue a policy towards radical reduction of nuclear weapons and ensuring the maximum security of nuclear weapons and all related facilities. In this connection, the statement proposes the setting up of an international agency to ensure the reduction of nuclear weapons, an agency which at subsequent stages could have under its control the whole nuclear cycle - from uranium mining and the production of deuterium and tritium to waste disposal.

The statement expresses the policy of the Russian leadership aimed at a maximum operational entry into force of the strategic offensive weapons treaty, but even before the entry into force of this treaty Russia will undertake a number of major steps aimed at the rollback of the strategic arsenal:

Some 600 land-based and sea-based strategic ballistic missiles, or almost 1,250 nuclear munitions have been taken off standby alert;

One hundred and thirty silo launchers for intercontinental ballistic missiles have been liquidated or are being prepared for liquidation;

Six atomic submarines have been prepared for dismantling of their missile launchers;

Programmes for the development or modernization of some types of strategic offensive weapons have been halted.

Strategic nuclear weapons deployed on the territory of Ukraine will be dismantled sooner than earlier planned. The relevant agreements to that effect have been reached.

What is more, the production of TU-106 and TU-95MS heavy bombers as well as the production of existing types of air-based long-range cruise missiles are being halted. Russia is prepared to refrain from the creation of new types of such missiles, on a mutual basis with the United States.

The production of existing types of sea-based long-range cruise missiles is being halted and new types of such missiles will not be created. At the same time, Russia is prepared - on a mutual basis - to eliminate all existing sea-based long-range cruise nuclear missiles.

(Mr. Datsanov, Russian Federation)

On the whole, Russia will get to the level contemplated by the Strategic Offensive Arms Treaty four years earlier than laid down under the treaty.

Major steps have been provided for also in respect of tactical nuclear weapons.

Recently, the production of nuclear warheads for land-based tactical missiles and the production of nuclear artillery shells and nuclear mines have been halted. Stockpiles of such nuclear munitions will be eliminated.

Russia is eliminating one third of sea-based tactical nuclear weapons and one half of the nuclear warheads for anti-aircraft missiles. It is also planned to reduce by half the stockpiles of airborne tactical nuclear munitions.

The statement stresses that Russia reaffirms its adherence to the ABM Treaty. At the same time, it expresses readiness to continue the impartial discussion of the United States proposal regarding limited non-nuclear ABM systems.

Moreover, Russia is prepared on a reciprocal basis with the United States to eliminate existing anti-satellite systems and to work out an arrangement on the complete prohibition of weapons specially designed to destroy satellites; it is also prepared jointly to develop and then to create and jointly operate a global defence system instead of SDI.

Russia resolutely advocates the prohibition of all nuclear testing. It is faithful to the year-long moratorium on nuclear explosions declared in October 1991 and hopes that other nuclear Powers will also refrain from nuclear testing. In the opinion of the Russian leadership, a climate of mutual restraint would further the achievement of an understanding on not carrying out such tests altogether. It is also possible to reduce the number of tests in stages.

In the interests of ultimately solving this task a proposal has been addressed to the United States to resume bilateral talks on the further limitations of nuclear testing.

Russia intends to continue implementing the programme for halting the production of weapons-grade plutonium. The proposal regarding the controlled cessation of the production of fissionable material for weapons purposes has also been reaffirmed.

In the statement considerable stress is laid on the problem of non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the means of their delivery. Russia reaffirms its obligations under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, including those assumed as its depositary. It is looking forward to the speedy accession to the Treaty as non-nuclear States by Belarus, Kazakhstan and the Ukraine as well as other member States of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

(Mr. Batsanov, Russian Federation)

Russia declares its full support for the activities of the International Atomic Energy Agency and is in favour of strengthening the effectiveness of its safeguards. Work is proceeding on Russia's attainment of the principle of full-scale or "IAEA comprehensive guarantees" as a condition of our peaceful nuclear exports.

Russia intends, as a matter of principle, to accede to the international regime for the non-proliferation of missile and missile technology as an equal partner. It also supports the efforts of the "Australian group" for control of chemical exports.

The Russian Federation intends to adopt domestic legislation regulating the export from Russia of "double purpose" materials, equipment and technology that could be used for the production of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons as well as battlefield missiles. A system of State control over such exports is being created.

Russia seeks to establish the closest cooperation and coordination among all the member States of the Commonwealth of Independent States on these issues.

The statement underlines - and now I am moving to what is clearly the key issue for the Conference's activity now that Russia advocates the earliest conclusion - already in 1992 - of a global convention on the prohibition of chemical weapons. It is necessary reliably to block ways of gaining possession of chemical weapons without detriment to the legitimate economic interests of the parties to such a convention. Moreover, Russia adheres to the agreement with the United States on the non-production and elimination of chemical weapons signed in 1990. However, the agreement's timetable for the elimination of such weapons needs some adjustments.

All the chemical weapons of the former USSR are on Russian soil and the statement stresses that Russia assumes responsibility for their elimination.

Russia is open to cooperation on this issue with the United States and the other countries concerned.

Russia favours strict implementation of the 1972 Convention on the Prohibition of Biological Weapons and the creation, on a multilateral basis, of relevant verification machinery and the implementation of confidence-building measures and openness.

Considering that the implementation of the Convention is lagging, Russia withdraws that part of the USSR's reservations to the 1925 Geneva Protocol that relate to the possibility of using biological weapons in retaliation.

The statement also contains provisions regarding European security, reduction of the defence budget and the conversion of military production.

(Mr. Batsanov, Russian Federation)

In conclusion, for my own part, I should like once again to note that many provisions in the statement have a direct bearing on the work of the Conference on Disarmament and on other areas in our joint activities in Geneva. This plan of action of Russia aims at making people's lives quieter, safer and better. Thank you for your attention.

The PRESIDENT: I thank the representative of the Russian Federation for his statement and for the kind words he addressed to the Chair.

Does any other delegation wish to take the floor at this stage? I give the floor to the representative of Sweden, Ambassador Hyltenius.

Mr. HYLTENIUS (Sweden): Mr. President, I shall have the opportunity to congratulate you formally on your assumption of the presidency of the Conference very soon, but on this occasion I have asked for the floor to thank you, as well as Ambassador Batsanov, for your kind words about the former Head of the Swedish delegation, Ambassador Maj Britt Theorin. I shall, of course, not fail to convey your words of appreciation and your good wishes to Mrs. Theorin, who, as a Member of Parliament, continues to be engaged in the vital questions of disarmament.

The PRESIDENT: I thank the representative of Sweden for his statement and see that no one else wishes to take the floor.

In accordance with our programme of work, beginning next week we shall hold only one plenary meeting, preferably on Thursdays. That means that there will be ample time for informal consultations among members until we meet again at a plenary meeting. I invite the members of the Conference to put the time available to good use by intensifying their consultations on a number of questions which are still pending. In addition to a number of organizational and procedural matters dealing with our agenda and programme of work, several issues relating to the establishment of subsidiary bodies need action by us. The question of the participation of the 39 non-members who have transmitted their requests is foremost in my mind and I do hope that we will be able to dispose of this matter without further delay next week.

I have no other business for today and I intend now to adjourn this plenary meeting.

The next plenary meeting of the Conference on Disarmament will be held on Thursday, 6 February, at 10 a.m. The plenary meeting stands adjourned.

The meeting rose at 10.45 a.m.